

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN KARL WAITSCHIES**, on January 15, 2003
at 3 P.M., in Room 472 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Karl Waitschies, Chairman (R)
Rep. Sylvia Bookout-Reinicke, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Dave Gallik, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Bob Bergren (D)
Rep. Ronald Devlin (R)
Rep. George Golie (D)
Rep. Jim Keane (D)
Rep. Bernie Olson (R)
Rep. Allen Rome (R)
Rep. Frank Smith (D)
Rep. Donald Steinbeisser (R)
Rep. Bill Wilson (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Joe Balyeat (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Leanne Kurtz, Legislative Branch
Pati O'Reilly, Committee Secretary

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 112, HB 105, HB 189, 1/8/2003
Executive Action: HB 80, HB 215, HB 22

HEARING ON HB 112

Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE JEFF PATTISON, HD 95

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. PATTISON introduced HB 112 as a bill requested by the Montana Department of Transportation. The bill provides for designated school bus turnouts. The turnouts will have barriers and be designed by the Department to make a safe loading and unloading place for children. It really is a child safety issue.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 5.1}

Proponents' Testimony:

Jim Currie, Montana Department of Transportation, explained that the bill is about safety for school children. We have changed some of the highway speed limits and it has become apparent that we need to address parking spaces for school buses. If there is a turnout for school buses, the buses will no longer have to turn on their safety lights when loading and unloading children.

EXHIBIT (trh08a01)

EXHIBIT (trh08a02)

EXHIBIT (trh08a03)

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 5.1 - 8.4}

Julie Milliam, Executive Director, Montana Family Coalition, stated that the Coalition is in support of this bill and they feel there is a need for additional protection for our children, especially on highways with high speed limits.

EXHIBIT (trh08a04)

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 8.4 - 9.6}

Harris Hyems, Pastor of Big Sky Christian Center in Hamilton, stated that they support this bill.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 9.6 - 10}

Shannon Bennett, Hamilton, supports this bill.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 10 - 10.9}

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 10.9 - 12}

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

Matt Schultz, Hamilton resident employed by School District 3, stated that he feels that the pullouts are necessary for some areas, but are not needed for other parts of Montana.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 12 - 13.3}

Larry Woodring, B and L Transfer of Townsend, stated that this is a good bill, but it could use some changes.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 13.3 - 14.7}

Bob Gilbert, Montana School Bus Contractors, stated that the Bus Contractors have some concerns that they feel need to be addressed in order for this bill to work for everyone and make it a good bill.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 14.7 - 15.5}

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REPS. GOLIE, SMITH and KEANE questioned **Jim Currie** about the cost of the project, the use of these turnouts by private individuals and how any abuse will be controlled.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 15.5 - 19}

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. PATTISON closed HB 112.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 19 - 23.2}

HEARING ON HB 189

Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE PATTISON, HD 95

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. PATTISON introduced HB 189. He stated that this bicycle bill is a result of an interim study committee. The study committee came out of SJR 6. This is a comprehensive bicycle bill that will amend

current law, make new regulations, address bicycle safety and provide protection for pedestrians.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 20.6 - 28.1}

Proponents' Testimony:

Jim Currie, Montana Department of Transportation, stated that this is one of the five bills that came out of SJR 6. The committee was charged with revising the traffic safety division.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 28.1 - 30}

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 2}

Linda Gryczan, representing herself, stated that she owns a bicycle shop and feels this is a good bill. She expressed a few concerns, and suggested some amendments.

EXHIBIT (trh08a05)

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 2 - 7.5}

Eric Grove, Great Divide Cyclery, urged the committee to support this bill.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 7.5 - 9.5}

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

Jeff Thomas, bicyclist, offered informational testimony and stated that he was open to answering questions from the committee.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 9.5 - 10}

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REPS. DEVLIN and GALLIK questioned Jim Currie regarding enforcement issues.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 10 - 19.6}

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. PATTISON closed HB 189 with a short summary, offered to cooperate with any parties offering amendments, and asked for a do pass.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 19.6 - 22.8}

HEARING ON HB 105

Sponsor: REP. BERNIE OLSEN, HD 76

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. BERNIE OLSEN introduced HB 105 as a Department bill which would clarify current law.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 22.8 - 24.7}

Proponents' Testimony:

Jim Currie, Montana Department of Transportation, explained the need for this bill. He said it is designed to update language and make current law enforceable.

EXHIBIT (trh08a06)

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 24.7 - 30}

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 4.5}

Linda Gryszan stated that this bill merely changes the language and updates current law. (Exhibit 5)

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 4.5 - 9.7}

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REPS. KEANE, DEVLIN, WAITSCHIES and DEVLIN questioned Jim Currie.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 6.7 - 16.9}

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. OLSON closed HB 105 asking for a do pass and stated he has no objection to any amendments.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 16.9 - 17.6}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 80

Motion/Vote:

REP. STEINBEISSER moved that HB 80 DO PASS. Motion carried 12-1 with REP. GALLIK voting no. Roll call vote. REP. SMITH's vote was changed by his permission and does not reflect the same information as the proxy form.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 17.6 - 27}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 215

Motion/Vote: REP. BERGREN moved that HB 215 DO PASS. Motion carried 9-4 with REPS. GOLIE, BALYEAT, WILSON and KEANE voting no. Roll call vote. REPS. SMITH and BALYEAT voted by proxy.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 27 -29.}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 22

Motion/Vote: REP. BERGREN moved that HB 22 DO PASS. Motion carried 12-0 with REP. BALYEAT not voting.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 30 - 31}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:55 P.M.

REP. KARL WAITSCHIES, Chairman

PATI O'REILLY, Secretary

KW/PO

EXHIBIT (trh08aad)